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Aruba: the legend behind its name



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Trump is expected to pardon ex-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich 5 years after commuting his sentence

By **ZEKE MILLER and MICHELLE L. PRICE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday will pardon Democratic former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, according to a person familiar with his plans. Trump commuted Blagojevich's 14-year sentence for political corruption charges during his first term. The Republican president planned to sign the pardon on Monday, according to the person, who was not authorized to discuss the pardon publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Blagojevich was convicted in 2011 on charges that included seeking to sell an appointment to then-President Barack Obama's old Senate seat and trying to shake down a children's hospital. Blagojevich, who appeared on Trump's reality TV show "Celebrity Apprentice," served eight years in prison before Trump cut short his term in 2020.

The former governor's wife, Patti Blagojevich, reached by phone, referred a reporter to a spokesperson who did not immediately return a message seeking comment. Already this term, Trump has granted clemency to more than 1,500 people, all



Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, right, speaks, Oct. 21, 2020, during a news conference in Chicago.

of whom were charged in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol. The clemency, announced on Trump's first day back in office, paved the way for the release from prison of people found guilty of violent attacks on police as well as leaders of far-right extremist groups convicted of failed plots to keep Trump in power after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump expressed some sympathy for Blagojevich when

he appeared on "Celebrity Apprentice" in 2010 before his first corruption trial started. When Trump fired Blagojevich as a contestant, he praised him for how he was fighting his criminal case, telling him, "You have a hell of a lot of guts."

Blagojevich was convicted on 18 counts. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago in 2015 tossed out five of the convictions, including ones in which he offered to appoint someone to a high-paying job in the Senate.

Patti Blagojevich spent nearly two years making public pleas for her husband's release during Trump's first term, appearing often on Fox News Channel, which Trump devotedly watches. She drew parallels between her husband's treatment and Trump's, along with showering Trump with praise.

At the time that Trump announced Blagojevich's commutation in 2020, Trump had been investigated for his ties to Russia and their attempts to interfere in the

2016 election. The president made clear that he saw similarities between efforts to investigate his own conduct and those that took down Blagojevich.

"It was a prosecution by the same people — Comey, Fitzpatrick, the same group," Trump told reporters. He was referring to Patrick Fitzgerald, the former U.S. attorney who prosecuted Blagojevich and later represented former FBI Director James Comey, whom Trump fired from the agency in May 2017. Comey was working in the private sector during the Blagojevich investigation and indictment. Former special counsel Robert Mueller, who oversaw the investigation into ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign, was FBI director during the investigation into Blagojevich.

Trump's decision to commute Blagojevich's sentence was met with bipartisan criticism in Illinois. Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker said at the time that Trump "has abused his pardon power in inexplicable ways to reward his friends and condone corruption, and I deeply believe this pardon sends the wrong message at the wrong time." Axios first reported the news of the expected pardon on Monday afternoon. □

Associated Press

Secrecy preceded the shutdown of the consumer protection agency's Washington headquarters



A sign stands at the construction site for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's headquarters in Washington, Aug. 27, 2018.
Associated Press

By **CHRIS MEGERIAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the weekend, some staff members at the Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau saw a sign of trouble to come. Windows in two basement conference rooms were covered with brown paper and

blue painter's tape, concealing their occupants. Voices could be heard inside discussing cuts to government agencies. When the door was cracked open, there were young people with temporary badges.

It was fresh evidence that the agency, which was created to protect Americans from financial fraud, abuse and deceptive practices, was the newest target of Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency. Now the Washington headquarters is shut down for the week, and there are fears that it will be gutted like the U.S. Agency for International Development. Pictures of the conference

rooms were viewed by The Associated Press, and the scene was described by two current employees who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they feared retaliation. The secrecy contradicts insistence by the White House that Musk is transparently fulfilling President Donald Trump's goal of downsizing the federal government. Russ Vought, Trump's budget chief, sent an email to employees on Monday morning saying they should "not perform any work tasks." They were directed to contact the top lawyer for the Office of Management and Budget "to get approval in writing before performing

any work task." Vought is also serving as the bureau's acting director. The previous director, Rohit Chopra, was fired by Trump, a Republican, on Feb. 1. Vought's message followed one on Saturday evening that ordered the bureau to "cease all supervision and examination activity."

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB, was created after the 2008 financial crisis and subprime mortgage-lending scandal. Officials said that it has obtained nearly \$20 billion in financial relief for U.S. consumers since its founding in the form of canceled debts, compensation and reduced loans. □

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USAID is stripped of its lease and staffers turned away from DC headquarters

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Officials and federal officers turned away scores of U.S. Agency for International Development staffers who showed up for work Monday at its Washington headquarters, after a court temporarily blocked a Trump administration order that would have pulled all but a fraction of workers off the job worldwide.

The Trump administration confirmed to The Associated Press that it had taken USAID off the lease of the building, which it had occupied for decades.

USAID's eviction from its headquarters marks the latest in the swift dismantling of the aid agency and its programs by President Donald Trump and his billionaire ally, Elon Musk. Both have targeted agency spending that they call wasteful and accuse its work around the world of being out of line with Trump's agenda.

A steady stream of agency staffers — dressed in business clothes or USAID sweatshirts or T-shirts — were told by a



Priya Kathpal, right, and Taylor Williamson, who work for a company doing contract work for the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, carry signs outside the USAID headquarters in Washington, Monday, Feb. 10, 2025.

Associated Press

front desk officer Monday that he had a list of no more than 10 names of people allowed to enter the building. Tarps covered USAID's interior signs.

A man who earlier identified himself as a USAID official took a harsher tone, telling staffers "just go" and "why

are you here?"

USAID staff were denied entry to their offices to retrieve belongings and were told the lease had been turned over to the General Services Administration, which manages federal government buildings. A GSA spokesperson confirmed that USAID

had been removed from the lease and the building would be repurposed for other government uses.

Even as Trump and Musk, who runs what is billed as a cost-cutting Department of Government Efficiency, have taken aim at other government agencies, USAID has

been hit hardest so far.

The president signed an executive order freezing foreign assistance, forcing U.S.-funded aid and development programs worldwide to shut down and lay off staff. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had sought to mitigate the damage by issuing a waiver to exempt emergency food aid and "life-saving" programs.

The Norwegian Refugee Council, one of the largest humanitarian groups, called the U.S. cutoff the most devastating in its 79-year history and said Monday that it will have to suspend programs serving hundreds of thousands of people in 20 countries. "The impact of this will be felt severely by the most vulnerable, from deeply neglected Burkina Faso, where we are the only organization supplying clean water to the 300,000 trapped in the blockaded city of Djibo, to war-torn Sudan, where we support nearly 500 bakeries in Darfur providing daily subsidized bread to hundreds of thousands of hunger-stricken people," the group said in a statement. □

Judge finds Trump administration hasn't fully followed his order to unfreeze federal spending

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge found Monday that the Trump administration hasn't fully followed his order to unfreeze federal spending and told the White House to release all the money.

U.S. District Court Judge John McConnell ruled that continued struggles to get federal money for things like early childhood education, pollution reduction and HIV prevention research violated his Jan. 31 order. He ordered the Trump administration to "immediately take every step necessary" to fol-

low his temporary restraining order over halting its plans for a sweeping freeze of federal funding.

The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. The judge said his temporary restraining order also blocks the administration from cutting billions of dollars in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health.

"These pauses in funding violate the plain text of the (temporary restraining order)," he wrote. "The broad categorical and sweeping freeze of federal funds is, as the Court found, likely unconstitutional and has

caused and continues to cause irreparable harm to a vast portion of this country." The administration has said it was making good-faith efforts to comply with the judge's ruling in a lawsuit filed by nearly two dozen states. But the Justice Department also argued that his ruling only applied to a sweeping spending freeze outlined in a late January memo that has since been rescinded.

The ruling doesn't apply to other spending pauses outlined in different memos, including funds that were part of President Joe Biden's signature climate, health care

and tax package.

But McConnell, who is based in Rhode Island and was nominated by President

Barack Obama, said his order blocked the administration from a wide range of funding cuts. □



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One as he prepares to sign a proclamation declaring Feb. 9 Gulf of America Day as he travels from West Palm Beach, Fla. to New Orleans, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

New York City shuts sprawling migrant tent camp on remote former airfield

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City has shuttered a sprawling tent complex that housed hundreds of migrant families on a remote former airport in Brooklyn, as it shrinks the emergency shelter system built up in response to a surge from the southern border that has been steadily receding in recent months.

The last of the roughly 2,000 people living on a wind-swept tarmac at Floyd Bennett Field, once the city's first airport, departed the gated encampment over the weekend, and crews were seen this week dismantling the hulking structure.

Advocates had warned that the facility, which is built on leased federal land, could be vulnerable to immigration raids as President-elect Donald Trump takes office Monday.

Jehinzo Gonzalez, a 47-year-old from Venezuela, said he, his wife and three sons were transferred to another nearby city-run shelter just a week before Christmas.

"It's a more dignified place for the family. We have three rooms for the five of us. Comfortable beds, a private bathroom," he said



The gate at the migrant shelter, is closed at Floyd Bennett Field on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024 in New York.

in Spanish, marveling at the contrast between the hard cots they slept on in their single room at the airport tent camp since arriving in the country in October.

About 230,000 migrants have come to New York since spring 2022, but new arrivals have declined for 27 straight weeks and are now at the lowest point in more than a year, according to Mayor Eric Adams' administration.

Roughly 50,000 migrants are currently being housed

in roughly 200 temporary sites, down from nearly 70,000 last January.

But the steady drum of shelter closings and forced relocations have also forced many migrant families to upend their routines for work, schooling and other daily needs just as they are trying to establish a foothold in the city.

Gabriel Montilla, a migrant from Venezuela, said he now spends hours each day in transit, chaperoning his three young children to

school in Brooklyn and rushing to make appointments after his family was recently moved from the now-closed Floyd Bennett Field encampment to a hotel in Queens.

On a frigid, windy Tuesday, he had just enough time after dropping off the kids to travel across Brooklyn to submit immigration paperwork at a government office.

"If it were summer or something without such cold weather, it would be differ-

ent," Montilla said in Spanish. "But at least for now it's too strong, very strong; it is difficult."

Groups advocating for migrants also say more needs to be done to transition migrants to more permanent housing.

Among the priorities should be things ranging from ending controversial policies limiting the amount of time migrants are allowed to remain in a shelter to investing in better case management and legal assistance on securing immigration status and work permits, said Will Watts, a deputy executive director at the Coalition for the Homeless.

Newly arrived migrants should also be brought into the city's traditional shelter system for the homeless so that they are no longer segregated and vulnerable to immigration enforcement, said Steph Rudolph, a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society.

Trump has promised a nationwide immigration crackdown, including mass deportations, after he takes office. "Now that the numbers are going down, the rationale for a separate system is no longer there," Rudolph said. "It makes sense to bring everyone under the same system." □

Associated Press

L.A. wildfire recovery czar will work for free after backlash to proposed \$500K salary for 3 months



This image released by PRSA Los Angeles shows Steve Soboroff, president of Soboroff Partners, accepting his award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Affairs at the 48th Annual PRISM Awards in Los Angeles, Nov. 7, 2012.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steve Soboroff, a longtime fixture in Los Angeles civic life who is now serving as chief recovery officer for the city's wildfire comeback, won't take a salary after facing backlash over plans to pay him \$500,000. He would have been paid through charitable donations, not with taxpayer money.

Soboroff had defended the proposed salary of half-a-million dollars for 3 months of work, saying his expertise as a residential property developer made him worth the price. But after criticisms mounted from elected officials and residents, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass reversed course over the weekend and said Soboroff would receive no compensation.

"Steve is always there for LA. I spoke to him today and asked him to modify his agreement and work for free. He said yes. We agree that we don't need anything

distracting from the recovery work we're doing," Bass said in a statement Saturday. She had named him to the recovery czar position on Jan. 17.

A message seeking comment was left for Soboroff on Monday.

Soboroff, 76, raised his family in the Pacific Palisades area, where nearly 7,000 homes were destroyed by last month's inferno. His son, NBC News journalist Jacob Soboroff, reported from the devastated neighborhood where he grew up.

He was initially tasked with leading the first phase of the city's wildfire rebuilding effort. On Friday though, Bass suggested that the scope of his work could be diminished, saying he would focus primarily on rebuilding the Palisades' historic business district. Soboroff disputed that notion, saying he is regularly interacting with federal agencies. □

Hamas says it will delay the release of more hostages, putting fragile ceasefire at risk

By MELANIE LIDMAN and
SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hamas said Monday it will delay the further release of hostages in the Gaza Strip after accusing Israel of violating a fragile ceasefire that now faces its most serious crisis since it began three weeks ago.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under heavy pressure to secure the release of remaining hostages after last Saturday's release, in which three Israelis came home emaciated after 16 months in Hamas captivity.

Hamas' announcement to delay the next planned release of hostages came as Palestinians and the international community seethed over U.S. President Donald Trump's recent comments that Palestinians from Gaza would not have a right to return under his plan for "ownership" of the war-torn territory after helping to rebuild it.

In an effort to improve relations with the Trump administration, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday ended a controversial system that paid stipends to the families of Palestinian prisoners, including those convicted



Israeli captives, from left to the right, Ohad Ben Ami, Eli Sharabi and Or Levy, who have been held hostage by Hamas in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023, are escorted by Hamas fighters on a stage before being handed over to the Red Cross in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025.

Associated Press

in deadly attacks on Israel. The U.S. and Israel have said the so-called "martyrs fund" rewarded violence against Israel.

Israel and Hamas are in the midst of a six-week ceasefire during which Hamas has committed to releasing 33 hostages captured in its Oct. 7, 2023, attack in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

The sides have carried out five swaps since the ceasefire went into effect

last month, freeing 21 hostages and over 730 Palestinian prisoners. The next exchange, scheduled for Saturday, called for three more Israeli hostages to be freed in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. Threatening a fragile ceasefire deal

An Israeli official said Netanyahu was consulting security officials after the Hamas announcement. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to

discuss internal deliberations, said Netanyahu also pushed forward a scheduled meeting of his Security Cabinet to Tuesday morning from later in the day.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said Hamas' plan to delay the next release of hostages was "a complete violation" of the ceasefire agreement and that he instructed the Israeli military to be on the highest level of alert.

The Prime Minister's coor-

dinator for hostages said all of the hostage families had been updated about Hamas' announcement and that Israel "insists on fulfilling the agreement in its entirety."

Hamas spokesman Abu Obeida said on social media that Israel has obstructed key provisions of the ceasefire by not allowing Palestinians to return to northern Gaza, carrying out strikes across the territory and failing to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid.

The Hostages and Missing Family Forum, which represents many of the hostage families, called on mediating countries to restore the existing deal.

"Recent evidence from those released, as well as the shocking conditions of the hostages released last Saturday, leaves no room for doubt time is of the essence, and all hostages must be urgently rescued from this horrific situation," the Forum said.

Trump made his latest comments about Gaza in an interview with FOX News set to air Monday, less than a week after he floated his plan for the U.S. to take control of Gaza and turn it in "the Riviera of the Middle East." □

Chinese cargo ship runs aground on Russia's Pacific region of Sakhalin but no spill reported

MOSCOW (AP) — The governor of Russia's Pacific island region of Sakhalin has declared an emergency after a Chinese cargo ship ran aground off its southwest coast. There was no danger to the crew of the An Yang 2, which is carrying coal and heavy fuel oil, Gov. Valery Limarenko said in a post on Telegram on Sunday. Russia's emergencies ministry said 20 crew were aboard.

Limarenko said that no fuel spillage was recorded, but local authorities had to be prepared for any scenario. Bad weather has prevented access by rescue teams to the bulk carrier, which is stranded in shallow waters off Sakhalin's Nevelsky district, he added.

Regional authorities said they were preparing to pump fuel out of the damaged vessel, marooned some 200 meters (650 feet) offshore.

Earlier this year, hundreds of volunteers in southwestern Russia spent weeks trying to contain a massive fuel oil spill from two storm-stricken tankers in the Kerch Strait near Crimea.

The Sakhalin region, which is located in Russia's Far East, comprises a large island of the same name and the four Kuril Islands, the subject of a decades-long territorial dispute between Russia and Japan that has prevented them from signing a peace treaty at the end of World War II.

Soviet troops captured the islands, known in Japan as the Northern Territories, at the end of the war, and Russia has retained control ever since. □



In this photo released by Governor and Government of the Sakhalin Region of Russia on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, The Chinese cargo ship is seen after running aground off at the southwest coast of Sakhalin island of Russian far east.

Associated Press

Colombia's interior minister resigns as cracks deepen in President Petro's coalition

By **MANUEL RUEDA**

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombian Interior Minister Juan Fernando Cristo resigned on Monday as a political crisis shook the government of President Gustavo Petro, following his decision to appoint a controversial political operator as chief of staff.

In a letter posted on X, Cristo said that he wished to pursue objectives such as supporting the implementation of a 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia "without limitations" and wrote that "frustration should not allow Colombia to return to an era of political and social exclusion that generates violence."

Two government ministers resigned last week after Petro named Armando Benedetti as his chief of staff, and scolded his Cabinet for not executing government programs, in a televised meeting that descended into heated discussions and tearful reprimands. On Sunday, Petro asked all of his government ministers to resign so that he could select a new Cabinet to tackle several challenges, including



Colombia's Interior Minister Juan Fernando Cristo, right, speaks with Special Representative and Head of the U.N. Verification Mission in Colombia Carlos Massieu, before an event marking the 8th anniversary of the peace agreement signing with the FARC in Bogotá, Colombia, Nov. 21, 2024.

Associated Press

a growing security crisis. More than 50,000 people in the northeast of the country were forced to flee their homes in January as fighting surged between rebel groups.

Cristo said that he had informed Petro about his plans to resign last Thursday. In his resignation letter he did not refer to Benedetti's appointment as chief of staff.

The minister of the environment and the minister of culture also resigned last week, saying in interviews that they did not want to work with Benedetti.

A former senator from Colombia's Caribbean coast, Benedetti is an experienced political operator who helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Petro's 2022 presidential campaign, but has also

been accused of corruption and violence against women.

Unlike many members of Petro's Cabinet, Benedetti is not affiliated with left-wing parties, and was once a supporter of the conservative leader Alvaro Uribe. In 2023 Colombian news magazine *Semana* published recordings of a heated conversation between Benedetti and one of Pet-

ro's closest aides in which Benedetti claimed he had raised almost \$4 million for the Petro campaign and hinted he had obtained the money from illegal sources. In the recordings, Benedetti threatened to take down the government if he was not rewarded with a Cabinet position for his work during the presidential campaign.

Last week Benedetti was charged with corruption by Colombia's Supreme Court in a separate case, where he is accused of interfering illegally in government contracts awarded to a digital security company in 2017. Under the Petro administration Benedetti has served as Colombia's ambassador to Venezuela, and as ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, a post that had been vacant since 1999.

Last year, Benedetti's wife filed a police complaint in Madrid, where she claimed that he had ripped off her clothes and threatened her with a knife. She has since retracted the accusations, which Spanish authorities did not pursue due to Benedetti's diplomatic status at the time. □

Israeli police raid Palestinian bookshop in east Jerusalem and seize books they say incite violence

By **MAHMOUD ILLEAN and NATALIE MELZER**

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP)

— Israeli police raided a long-established Palestinian-owned bookstore in east Jerusalem, detaining the owners and confiscating books about the decades-long conflict. The police claimed the books incited violence. The Educational Bookshop, established over 40 years ago, is a hub of intellectual life in east Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed to its capital in a move not recognized internationally. Most of the city's Palestinian population lives in east Jerusalem, and the Pal-

estinians want it to be the capital of their future state. The three-story bookstore, raided on Sunday, has a



The shuttered Educational Bookshop is seen after Israeli police raided the long-established Palestinian-owned bookstore in east Jerusalem, detaining its owners and confiscating books about the decades-long conflict saying the books incited violence, Monday, Feb. 10, 2025.

Associated Press

large selection of books, mainly in Arabic and English, about the conflict and the wider Middle East, including many by Israeli and Jewish authors. It hosts cultural events and is especially popular among researchers, journalists and foreign diplomats.

The bookstore's owners, Ahmed and Mahmoud Muna, were detained, and police confiscated hundreds of titles related to the conflict before ordering the store's closure, according to May Muna, Mahmoud's wife.

She said the soldiers picked out books with Palestinian titles or flags, "without knowing what any of them

meant." She said they used Google Translate on some of the Arabic titles to see what they meant before carting them away in plastic bags.

In a statement, the police said the two owners were arrested on suspicion of "selling books containing incitement and support for terrorism."

As an example, the police referred to an English-language children's coloring book entitled "From the River to the Sea," a reference to the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea that today includes Israel, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. □

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel?

A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina",

and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." □



Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and



Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these

fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

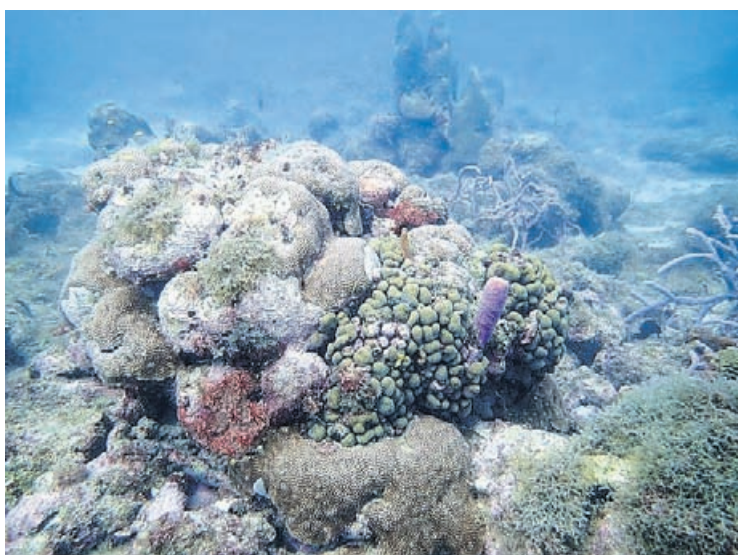
Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels

during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geologi-

cal history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □





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Po-Ke Ono Azure launches exclusive breakfast menu



Po-Ke Ono Azure is proud to announce the launch of its exclusive breakfast menu, inviting guests to experience mornings infused with Asian-inspired flavors, fresh ingredients, and a touch of tropical paradise.

Located at the scenic Azure Residences at Eagle Beach, Po-Ke Ono now offers an exceptional morning menu with options like the Thai Breakfast Bowl, Acai Bowl, and



Asian Omelet. Designed to bring unique flavors to Aruba's breakfast scene, the menu also includes fresh coffee, mimosas, and tropical juices, perfect for pairing with the restaurant's relaxed beachside atmosphere.

"Our goal was to create a breakfast experience that captures the essence of Po-Ke Ono and brings a fresh twist to mornings here at Azure," said Executive Chef Urvin Croes, founder of Po-Ke Ono. "Each dish is crafted with care, featuring

ingredients that highlight the vibrant, Asian-inspired flavors we're known for."



Available every morning at Po-Ke Ono Azure, the new breakfast lineup is ideal for early risers and those looking for a unique start to their day.

About Po-Ke Ono Azure

Since its inception, Po-Ke Ono has quickly become a culinary landmark in Aruba, known for its signature fusion of Hawaiian and Asian flavors. With two locations across the island, Po-Ke Ono continues to innovate and delight, with Po-Ke Ono Azure offering exclusive breakfast options at the iconic Eagle Beach. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from

Julie Brown from Windham, ME, USA

She wrote to us saying: "To me Aruba is about "connection"! My husband and I came here for the first time in 1999 with family. The island quickly became a favorite vacation destination for us. We have been coming at least once a year since then.

As we disconnect from work and responsibilities, Aruba has become a place to reconnect We have come here with friends and family to continually find serenity in the island hospitality. The people are consistently friendly and welcoming. The weather is reliable especially when we long to leave the cold and snow back in Maine.

In 2013 we came with our daughter and her husband to celebrate the end of her year long chemotherapy treatment for brain cancer. She was diagnosed again in 2017. In November of



2018 we made a special trip back. It was a trip she requested as she began her Hospice journey; to travel while she was still able to. It was her last trip. She died in January of 2019.

We continue to come to Aruba to celebrate all of our past memories as well as to make more. Aruba will always have a special place in my heart."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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The St. Regis Aruba Celebrates the Opening of the first-ever St. Regis Casino

Palm Beach—The St. Regis Aruba Resort proudly announces the debut of The Casino at St. Regis Aruba, marking a historic milestone as the St. Regis brand unveils its first-ever casino. This exceptional occasion introduces an unparalleled destination for casino entertainment, set within an ambience of sophistication, refinement, and bespoke service, elevating the island's luxury offerings.

Located within The St. Regis Aruba Resort, which celebrated its grand opening on



January 22nd, the casino features an exquisite selection of traditional table games, modern slot machines, and sports-betting kiosks. Open daily from 6:00 PM to 5:00

AM, The Casino at St. Regis Aruba creates a refined, non-smoking atmosphere for discerning guests, local residents, and global travelers alike. At the heart of the casino is the Ventura bar, where sophistication meets energy. Ventura offers an exclusive selection of the finest bourbons, whiskies, and cognacs, alongside expertly crafted cocktails. This lively bar sets the stage for exquisite moments, blending the allure of casino excitement with the vibrant spirit of Aruba. Speaking at the ribbon-cut-



ting ceremony, Mr. Oliver Reschreiter, General Manager of The St. Regis Aruba Resort shared:

"The debut of The Casino at St. Regis Aruba is a defining moment for the St. Regis brand for being its first casino, this venue reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering immersive and bespoke experiences. With its elegant design, exciting campaigns, and rewarding prizes, our Hosts are delighted to elevate your evenings with exceptional service and unmatched entertainment."

The ceremony featured a sophisticated ribbon-cutting moment, welcoming guests to explore the casino's luxurious interiors. Attendees were delighted with handcrafted cocktails and culinary offerings, inspired by the resort's exceptional dining experiences including the St. Regis Bar, adjacent to the casino. In celebration of its opening, the casino invites guests to immerse themselves in this extraordinary new casino, experiencing the fusion of luxury, entertainment, and refinement. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Ambassadors
Mr. Cary and Mrs. Corinne Limebeer from Acton,



Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's weather
- Aruba's relaxation
- The people

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay,

like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for

kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

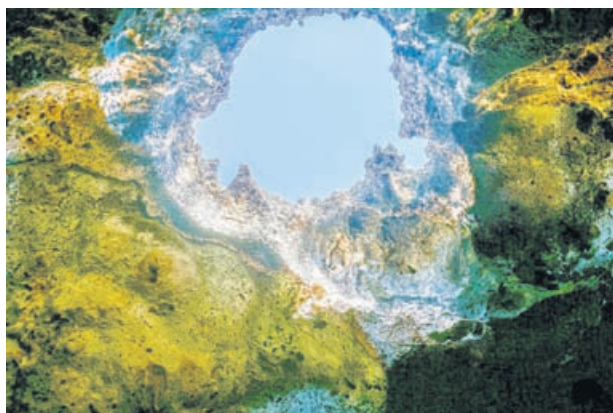
Boca Catalina in Malmok
Boca Catalina is a small bay



beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □



Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Today is going to be a good day



The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

MangelHalto at Savaneta is definitely a place

not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □



Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

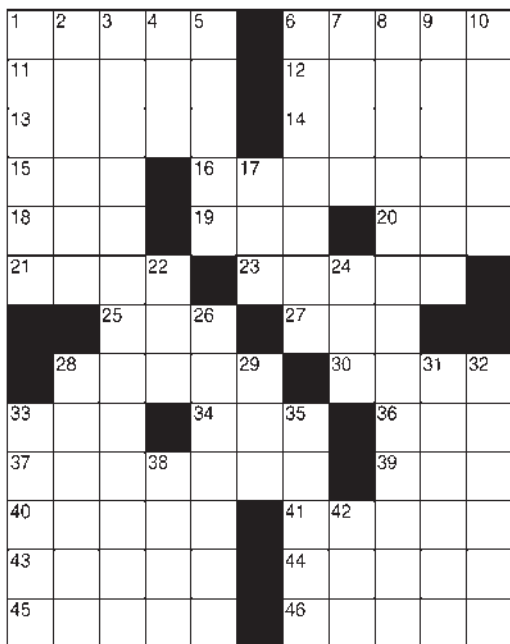
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 40 The Jetsons' dog
41 Poppy product
43 Yarn ball
44 Baseball's Pee Wee
45 Packs down
46 Moved carefully
11 In harmony
12 Esther of TV
13 Hawks and doves
14 List of candidates
15 Torah cabinet
16 Like some '60s fashions
18 Minor complaint
19 — Salvador
20 Attempt
21 Tennis great Arthur
23 Course at Eton
25 Scrollwork shape
27 Tall tale
28 Showy flower
30 Petty argument
33 Jeans feature
34 Hwys.
36 Mine matter
37 Kodak founder
39 Negative link

DOWN

- 1 Beach tent
2 God of the dead
3 Use rules to one's advantage
4 Purpose
5 Takes a breather
6 Weapons store
7 Related
8 Bet on a race
9 Changes
10 Slender
17 Des-cartes's conclusion
22 Superlative suffix
24 "— folly to be wise"
26 Sunday talks
28 1867 purchase
29 Nutrition label abbr.
31 Stir up
32 Designated
33 Banquet
35 Sleep sound
38 Stumble
42 Pod unit



2-9

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

MTUNHT APQONDOG RW
WTUOM, RM RW ARVVPZ
KRMT VUMW UA VUYP DXZ
WKPPM WNOJORWPW.

— BTDOSDRXP E. AUOZP

Cryptoquote: WELL, I KNOW NOW. I KNOW A LITTLE MORE HOW MUCH A SIMPLE THING LIKE A SNOWFALL CAN MEAN TO A PERSON. — SYLVIA PLATH



Cruise ship Schedule: February 11 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	11	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	12	SEA CLOUD SPIRIT	08.00	14.00	G	1
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
THU	13	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR	07.00	17.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN JADE	07.00	20.00	C	1
		MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	I	1
SAT	15	MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	C	1
		STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	I	1
MON	17	RESILIENT LADY	09.00	23.59	C	1
TUE	18	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

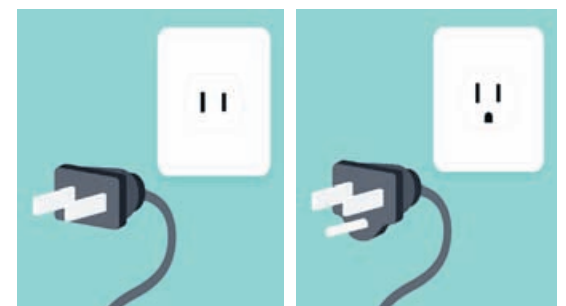
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Classifieds

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Phase 2
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Oranjestad:

Sta. Anna: Tel.586 8181

San Nicolas:

San Lucas:Tel.584 5119

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia	Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
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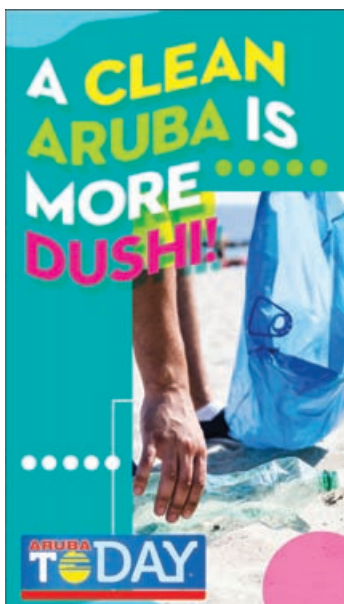
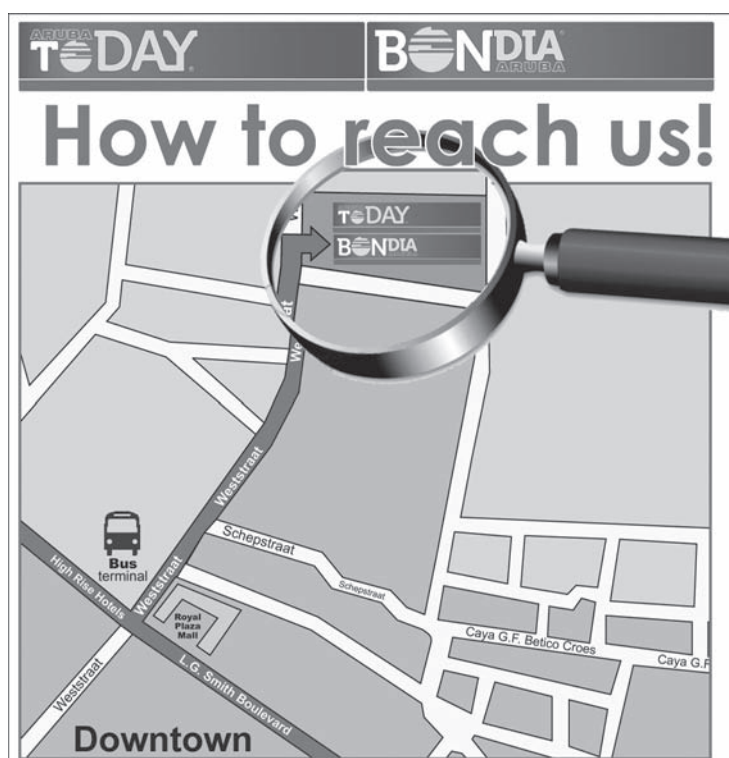
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So long, penny! Trump orders US to ditch 1-cent coin after decades of complaints

By **ALAN SUDERMAN**
AP Business Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The lowly penny, the forgotten mainstay of coin jars and car cupholders everywhere, may soon be no more.

President Donald Trump announced Sunday he's ordered his administration to cease production of the 1-cent coin, whose buying power is long past its prime. Advocates for ditching the penny cite its high production cost — currently almost 4 cents per penny, according to the U.S. Mint — and limited utility. Fans of the penny cite its usefulness in charity drives and relative bargain in production costs compared with the nickel, which costs almost 14 cents to mint.

Trump's surprise order comes after decades of unsuccessful efforts to pitch the penny.

"Only tradition explains our stubborn attachment to the penny. But sometimes traditions get ridiculous," the Farmers' Almanac said in its 1989 edition.

Here's a look at some questions surrounding Trump's



A lone penny is illuminated in a bin of completed pennies at the U.S. Mint in Denver, Aug. 15, 2007.
Associated Press

order. Can Trump really order the Treasury to stop minting pennies without Congress' approval?

Yes, according to legal scholar Laurence H. Tribe, the Carl M. Loeb University Professor of Constitutional Law Emeritus at Harvard University.

U.S. code gives the Treas-

ury Secretary the authority to mint and issue coins "in amounts the secretary decides are necessary to meet the needs of the United States."

If Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent decides the amount necessary for the penny is zero, he's within his legal rights, Tribe said.

"Unlike a lot of what the new administration has been doing pursuant to the flood of executive orders since Jan. 20, this action seems to me entirely lawful and fully constitutional," Tribe said, referring to the aggressive executive action Trump's taken on other issues since taking office.

Congress, which dictates currency specifications like the size and metal content of coins, could make Trump's order permanent through law. But past congressional efforts to ditch the penny have failed.

Pennies are mostly made of zinc, and the American zinc lobby has been a major opponent to suggestions that the penny be eliminated.

How many pennies are in circulation?

It depends on what you mean by circulation.

Pennies are the most popular coin made by the U.S. Mint, which reported making 3.2 billion of them last year. That's more than half of all the new coins it made last year.

MIT professor Jeff Gore, who founded Citizens to Retire the Penny, said coins are supposed to stay in circulation for about 30 years and that in the last three decades the U.S. Mint has made about 250 billion pennies. But, he says, "because nobody wants to use pennies, they fall out of active circulation much faster than other coins." □

Stricter lobster fishing rules scrapped after complaints from fishermen about harm to industry

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Fishing industry regulators have decided to scrap stricter new lobster fishing standards off New England

in the wake of months of protest from lobster fishermen that the rules were unnecessary and would bankrupt harvesters.

The regulators were planning to institute new rules

this summer that increased the minimum legal harvest size for lobsters in some of the most important fishing grounds in the world. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council, which manages the fishery, said the changes were important to preserve the future of a lobster population that has shown recent signs of decline. Many commercial fishermen adamantly opposed the changes, which would have required them to throw back previously market-ready lobsters. An arm of the commission voted on Feb. 4 to initiate a repeal of the new rules in the face of "fervent industry concerns about the potential economic impacts" of the changes, the commission said in a statement.

The elimination of the new size standards will require the fishing industry to come up with strategies to protect the lobster population, said Patrick Keliher, chair of the commission's lobster board.

"This action being considered by the board will require the Gulf of Maine lobster industry to develop management strategies to ensure the long-term health of the resource and the coastal communities that it supports," Keliher said.

The size change was set to apply to the Gulf of Maine, a piece of ocean off New England that is vital to American fisheries and home to some of the world's most popular seafood species, such as lobster, haddock and clams.

The commission adopted rules in 2023 that stated legal harvesting size for lobsters would become more strict if the lobster stock in the gulf showed a decline of 35%.

Officials also said in 2023 that the stock declined by nearly 40% when comparing 2020-22 to 2016-18. The decline took place in an era when the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than most of the world's oceans. Scientists have said that can affect the health and reproduction of lobsters.

The nation's haul of lobsters has declined in recent years, though the catch is still high compared to historic data. The catch declined about 11% from 2021 to 2023, federal data state. □



Max Oliver moves a lobster to the banding table aboard his boat while fishing off Spruce Head, Maine, on Aug. 31, 2021.

Associated Press

Lindsey Vonn 'disappointed' with how Mikaela Shiffrin handled decision to race with another teammate

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
AP Sports Writer
SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, Austria (AP) — They are the two best skiers in U.S. history. Actually in women's skiing overall.

So it should come as no surprise that having Lindsey Vonn and Mikaela Shiffrin on the same team at times creates friction.

It happened years ago when Vonn was finishing up her career and Shiffrin was still in the earlier stages of hers. And now it's happening again with Vonn having returned to racing at the age of 40 after nearly six years of retirement.

But who knew that it would be the all-new event of team combined to bring the friction to the surface.

Vonn said Monday that she was "disappointed" with how Shiffrin handled her decision to race in the combined at the skiing world championships with downhill world champion Breezy Johnson instead of pairing with her in a skiing "dream team."

Vonn had campaigned to race with Shiffrin on an American team that would have united the two most successful skiers in World Cup history. Never mind that neither skier is technically even allowed to select who they pair with — that's something that the



United States' Lindsey Vonn, right, chats with United States' Mikaela Shiffrin after women's downhill training at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Jeongseon, South Korea, Feb. 20, 2018.

Associated Press

U.S. team's coaching staff decides based on "season-best results" in both downhill and slalom.

But Shiffrin then announced that she wasn't going to race in the team combined because she was behind in her training for giant slalom following her crash in Killington, Vermont, in November.

On Monday, Shiffrin changed her plans. Saying that she was struggling to overcome her fears following her November crash, she decided to withdraw from defending her giant

slalom title and race the combined instead, pairing with Johnson. Johnson will race the downhill and Shiffrin the slalom.

Speeds are not as high in slalom as they are in giant slalom so it's a less dangerous event.

"I'm excited for Breezy and Mikaela to team up together and I believe they are a great pair. However, I am disappointed in the way it was handled," Vonn said in a statement sent to The Associated Press.

Vonn said she reached out to Shiffrin and that Shiffrin

agreed it would be great to race together. But then Vonn was told that Shiffrin wasn't entering the combined. Vonn only learned of Shiffrin's final decision to race it via Instagram.

"Despite the lack of communication I am a team player and am looking forward to be partnered with AJ Hurt, who is an amazing young skier," Vonn added. Shiffrin's spokeswoman declined to comment on the situation.

New event entails 1 racer competing in downhill and another in slalom

The combined event entails one racer competing in a downhill run and another in a slalom run, with their two times added up to determine the final results. Each nation can enter up to four pairings.

Since Johnson won the world title in the downhill and Shiffrin has two World Cup wins this season, they were named to Team 1.

The No. 2 team is super-G bronze medalist Lauren Macuga with Paula Moltzan. Vonn and Hurt are the No. 3 team and the No. 4 team is Jacqueline Wiles with Katie Hensien.

Shiffrin and Vonn are the winningest female racers in World Cup history with 99 victories for Shiffrin and 82 for Vonn. Vonn is the all-time leader in World Cup downhill victories with 43 and Shiffrin holds the mark in slalom with 62 both records among men and women.

"I think it would be probably one of the coolest things in ski racing to have 181 World Cup victories on one team," Vonn said last week.

While the 24-year-old Hurt has never won a World Cup race, she has finished on the podium twice with two third-places once in slalom and once in giant slalom, both last season. □



Former Philadelphia Phillies player Pete Rose tips his hat to fans during an alumni day event before a baseball game between the Philadelphia Phillies and the Washington Nationals, Aug. 7, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Reds will wear No. 14 patch on jersey sleeve to honor Pete Rose, who died last year

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose may be on baseball's permanently ineligible list, but the late hit king's No. 14 will be on Cincinnati Reds' uniforms this year.

Cincinnati posted a photo of the patch on X on Monday with the message "14 on our side all season" and a heart emoji.

Rose, who died in September at the age of 83, played 19 of his 24 major league seasons with his hometown Reds. He finished his playing career in 1986 with a record 4,256 hits.

The player known as Charlie Hustle was a 17-time All-Star and member of three World Series championship teams.

He was NL Most Valuable Player in 1973, and he won three batting titles and two Gold Gloves.

A Major League Baseball investigation found he wagered on the Reds to win in games from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team, and Rose agreed in 1989 to go on the permanently ineligible list. Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1991 adopted a rule barring people on MLB's permanently ineligible list from the Hall ballot.

Rose's application for reinstatement was denied by Commissioner Rob Manfred in 2015. □

Jalen Hurts' rocky road leads to a Super Bowl MVP award

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

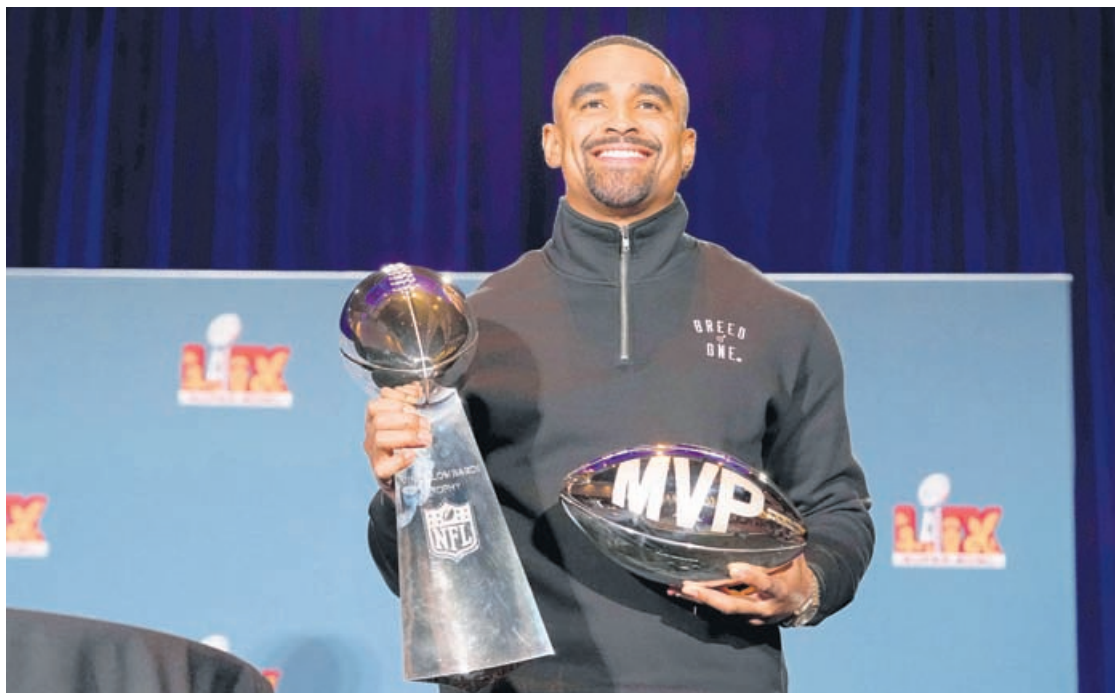
NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

Jalen Hurts smiled as he held the Lombardi Trophy in his right hand and the Super Bowl MVP trophy in his left hand, reflecting on all he has gone through to reach the pinnacle of success.

The hurdles he faced along the way helped lead to where he stood Monday morning: a Super Bowl champion and MVP.

"When you hoist those trophies, it's more so about the journey and less about the results," Hurts said. "Obviously we're going to be judged by results and that's what everyone talks about. The journey is what fuels us and makes us who we are."

The finish to the 2024 sea-



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts poses with the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl trophy and the Pete Rozelle MVP trophy during a news conference the morning after the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs, Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

in the title game and could only watch as Tua Tagovailoa led the Crimson Tide to a title.

Hurts spent the next season as a backup before transferring to Oklahoma, where he improved as a passer and was drafted in the second round by the Eagles in 2020.

The pick was panned by some because Philadelphia already had Carson Wentz in place, but Hurts took over as starter late in his rookie season. He helped the Eagles make the playoffs the following year in his first full season as a starter and reached the Super Bowl in the 2022 season. The questions about his ability as a pure passer lingered despite his success on the field, but Hurts may have put them to rest at least for now thanks to the way he controlled the game Sunday night against Steve Spagnuolo's defense.

"When it's all said and done for me, I won't measure my success by any numbers or statistics or passing yards or touchdowns or anything like that," Hurts said. "I measure it off rings and championships. That's how I look at it." Hurts had both the stats and the championship against the Chiefs. He went 17 for 22 for 221 yards and two touchdowns, and he ran for 72 yards and a touchdown, joining Hall of Famer Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to throw for at least 200 yards and two TDs and rush for at least 50 yards and a score in a Super Bowl.

While that performance led to Hurts winning the award for Most Valuable Player, the most valuable person for the Eagles might have been defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who delivered a signature performance in a long career that had lacked only a championship.

The Eagles sacked Patrick Mahomes six times the first time that has happened in his 8-year NFL career and generated three takeaways, including a pick-6 by rookie Cooper DeJean. □

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